

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalytic converter for the after-treatment of exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a housing having an internal space adapted to receive exhaust gas therethrough, wherein said housing is provided with openings for entry of exhaust gas into and out of said internal space, wherein surfaces of walls of said housing facing said internal space are at least partially provided with catalytically active material and are disposed in a flow path of exhaust gas between said openings, and

hollow domes disposed on each of two oppositely disposed walls of said housing, wherein said hollow domes extend into said internal space, wherein only free ends of said hollow domes are provided with openings, wherein the free ends of those hollow domes on one of said walls extend beyond free ends of those hollow domes of the oppositely disposed wall such that one of said hollow domes disposed on one of said walls extends between ones of said hollow domes disposed on the other of said walls and said opening of said one hollow dome on said one wall is disposed in a space between said ones of said hollow domes disposed on the other wall, [and] further wherein flow of exhaust gas in said internal space in said housing is adapted to be diverted in the area of said openings at said free ends of said hollow domes to provide a thorough mixing of the exhaust gas, wherein said exhaust gas in said internal space is adapted to flow from said opening of one of said hollow domes disposed on one of said walls to said opening of one of said hollow domes disposed on the oppositely disposed wall and along outer surfaces of said hollow domes, and wherein said outer surfaces of said hollow domes are provided with a catalytically active coating.

2. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of hollow domes are provided on each of said oppositely disposed wall of said housing, and wherein the hollow domes on one of said walls extend into spaces between the hollow domes of the oppositely disposed wall.

3. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said housing is composed of two shell portions each of which is provided with one of said oppositely disposed walls.

4. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 3, wherein said shell portions are one-piece drawn parts of plate metal.

5. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said hollow domes have an essentially cylindrical configuration.

6. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 5, wherein said hollow domes have a conical configuration that tapers towards said free ends thereof.

7. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said free ends of said hollow domes extend nearly to the oppositely disposed wall while forming a flow gap.

8. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 7, wherein the flow gap of outwardly disposed ones of said hollow domes has a reduced cross-section.

9. (Cancelled) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein outer surfaces of said hollow domes are provided with a catalytically active coating.

10. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 3, wherein said shell portions rest against one another via a peripheral flange collar.

11. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 10, wherein said shell portions are connected by means of an edge bead in the vicinity of said flange collar.

12. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 10, wherein one of said shell portions has a pot-shaped configuration and is provided with said flange collar, wherein the other of said shell portions is provided with an abutment edge that is guided beyond a

region of one of said oppositely disposed walls that is provided with said hollow domes, and wherein said abutment edge has the dimensions of said flange collar.

13. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said outlet means provided on said free ends of said hollow domes form an outlet for said catalytic converter.

14. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, which is embodied for use in a muffler and forms an inlet of said muffler.

15. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 14, wherein when said catalytic converter is installed in said muffler, an inlet means of said housing in the form of an inlet window is disposed at the same level as an inlet opening of said muffler.

16. (Original) A catalytic converter according to claim 14, wherein said housing is provided with aligned holes for receiving fixing or mounting elements that extend through said housing.

17. (Previously Presented) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein a multi-angled flow path of exhaust gas is adapted to be provided in said internal space in said housing by said arrangement of said free ends of said hollow domes of one of said walls extending beyond said free ends of said hollow domes of the oppositely disposed one of said walls.

18. (Previously Presented) A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein flow of exhaust gas in said housing is diverted in the area of said openings at said free ends of said hollow domes by approximately 180°.

19. (Currently Amended) A catalytic converter for the after-treatment of exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a housing having an internal space adapted to receive exhaust gas therethrough, wherein said housing is provided with openings for entry of exhaust gas into and out of said internal space, wherein surfaces of walls of said housing facing said internal

space are at least partially provided with catalytically active material and are disposed in a flow path of exhaust gas between said openings, and

hollow domes disposed on each of two oppositely disposed walls of said housing, wherein said hollow domes extend into said internal space, wherein free ends of said hollow domes are provided with openings, wherein the free ends of those hollow domes on one of said walls extend beyond free ends of those hollow domes of the oppositely disposed wall, wherein said free ends of said hollow domes extend nearly to the oppositely disposed wall while forming a flow gap, wherein said exhaust gas flows through said flow gap, and wherein said flow gap is about 2 to 3 mm.